



Congresswoman Hilda L. Solis

February 8, 2002

Dear Friend:

I am deeply concerned about the recent hate crimes that have taken place in Azusa. As your U.S. Representative, I am working to address this serious issue in Congress.

In December, I spoke on the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives about the unacceptable increase of hate crimes in Azusa. I urged my congressional colleagues to join me in standing to protect our children and communities from such hateful crimes. I support the Local Law Enforcement Hate Crimes Prevention Act of 2001, which promotes the strict enforcement of hate crimes by providing federal assistance to states and local jurisdictions to investigate and prosecute these cowardly crimes.

The recent firebombing of African-American homes in Azusa is particularly disturbing. Fortunately, the people of Azusa have responded in unity, turning out by the hundreds to both a candlelight vigil held in December 2001 and to the "Hands Across Azusa" event in January 2002.

"Hands Across Azusa" was the city's first celebration of civil rights leader Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. I am proud to have participated in such an important event and am confident that the City of Azusa will continue to move forward in unity. As Dr. King reminds us, we must remember that "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere."

I urge you to practice racial tolerance and denounce acts of violence. If you have been a victim or witnessed a hate crime, please call the Office of Victims of Hate Crimes in the Department of Fair Employment and Housing at 1-866-460-4357.

Should you have any questions, please call my office at any of the numbers listed below.

Sincerely,

Hilda L. Solis
Member of Congress

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